

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 07358 282302Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 DHA-02

PRS-01 SCCT-01 DODE-00 /027 W
----- 050990

P 282230Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 577

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CI SHUM PINT

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF BUDNIK BORTHERS

REF: A) SANTIAGO 7253; B) STATE 184557; C) SANTIAGO 7303

1. SUMMARY: WIFE OF JULIO BUDNIK AND A COUSIN, ROBERTO BUDNIK, CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR JULY 28 TO APPEAL FOR US INTERVENTION IN BEHALF OF THE TWO BUDNIK BORTHERS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE USG COULD NOT INTERVENE OFFICIALLY IN A CASE INVOLVING CHILEAN CITIZENS IN CHILE. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, BRING TO THE GOC'S ATTENTION THE CONCERN OF THE U.S. B'HAI BRITH, AND WOULD EMPHASIZE THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE CASE IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE BROTHERS. THE WIFE AND COUSIN GAVE ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE CASE, BUT THE FAMILY HAS HEARD NOTHING MORE FROM THE BROTHERS OR "FRIENDS" SINCE JULY 24 (REF A). THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE BROTHERS WERE DETAINED IN THE SECURITY FORCES' CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY. VISITING FONMIN CARVAJAL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, AMBASSADOR COMMUNICATED U.S. B'NAI B'RITH INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE BUDNIK DISAPPEARANCE WHEN HE CALLED ON FONMIN CARVAJAL LATE AFTERNOON JULY 28, NOTING B'NAI BRITH INTEREST. CARVAJAL KNEW NOTHING OF CASE. SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 07358 282302Z

3. MRS BUDNIK INFORMED US THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S AIDE TOLD

THEM JULY 26 THAT THE PRESIDENT BELIEVED THE FAMILY WAS LYING TO RABBI KREIMAN ABOUT THE PHONE CALLS FROM THE BROTHERS (REF A). PINOCHET REPORTEDLY SAID THAT DETAINED PERSONS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE SUCH PHONE CALLS. MOREOVER, CONFISCATED CARS ARE NOT RETURNED AS THE FAMILY DESCRIBED TO KREIMAN. SINCE GOC AUTHORITIES DO NOT HAVE THE BROTHERS, THE FAMILY MUST BE LYING.

4. THE VISITORS NOTED IN REFUTATION THAT A DOZEN OR MORE PEOPLE HAD BEEN PRESENT WHEN THE MOTHER RECEIVED THE FIRST PHONE CALL. THEY WITNESSED THE MOTHER'S JOY AT RECOGNIZING THE VOICE OF HER SON, AND HEARD ONE HALF OF THE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH HIM. MOREOVER, THEY HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THROUGH SEVERAL CHANNELS THAT THE BROTHERS ARE DETAINED. THE INFORMATION, HOWEVER, IS NOT SOLID ENOUGH TO BE USED IN CONFRONTING THE GOVERNMENT.

5. MRS BUDNIK SAID THAT BOTH THE BROTHERS' CARS HAD BEEN STRIPPED, PRESUMABLY IN A THOROUGH SEARCH, AND THEN PUT TOGETHER AGAIN BEFORE THEY WERE RETURNED. THE BORTHERS' OFFICE ALSO HAD BEEN SEARCHED MINUTELY. THEY OPINED THAT ONLY OFFICIAL PERSONS COULD HAVE BROKEN INTO THE OFFICE AND SEARCHED IT DURING THE DAY, TAKEN THE CARS FROM A PUBLIC PARKING LOT, AND SEARCHED THEM IN THE WAY NOTED. KID-NAPPERS OR EXTREMISTS LACKED A MOTIVE FOR DOING SO, AND COULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT.

6. ASKED ABOUT THE BROTHERS' POLITICAL LEANINGS (RABBI KREIMAN HAD SAID THEY WERE ALLENDE SYMPATHIZERS--REF A). MRS BUDNIK SAID HER HUSBAND WAS APOLITICAL. BECAUSE OF HIS TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS, HOWEVER, HE HAD BEEN NAMED BY THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT AS DIRECTOR OF GENERAL TIRE-INSA IN 1971 (A COMPANY WELL KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT--SEE 75 SANTIAGO 6956 AND PREVIOUS). HE HAD RESIGNED IN MARCH 1973. THE VISITORS SAID THAT BROTHER EDUARDO WAS "A COMMUNIST," BUT THEY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WAS A MEMBER OR A SYMPATHIZER. THEY SAID HE HAD NEVER BEEN A MILITANT AND HAD STAYED OUT OF POLITICS UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. NEITHER BROTHER HAD EVER BEEN QUESTIONED OR HARRASSED; EDUARDO HAD TRAVELED ABROAD SEVERAL TIMES WITHOUT TROUBLE. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 07358 282302Z

THEY INSISTED THAT THEY KNEW OF NO ACTIVITY OF EITHER BROTHER THAT COULD HAVE LED TO THEIR DETENTION. HAD THERE BEEN SOMETHING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MINOR (A CONVERSATION, FOR EXAMPLE) THAT THE GOC SHOULD HAVE NO REASON TO TREAT THEM THIS WAY.

7. COMMENT: THE MOST PLAUSIBLE ASSUMPTION WE CAN MAKE FROM THE INFORMATION WE NOW HAVE IS THAT EDUARDO BUDNIK'S

COMMUNIST CONNECTION MAY HAVE BEEN TURNED UP BY DINA IN ITS CURRENT ANTI-PARTY SWEEP, AND THAT THE BROTHERS HAVE BEEN DETAINED AS A RESULT. THE THOROUGH SEARCH OF OFFICE AND CARS SUGGESTS AN INTEREST IN DOCUMENTS OR MONEY-- OR EVEN, POSSIBLY, DRUGS, THOUGH THIS SEEMS MOST REMOTE (WE ARE CHECKING). IN ANY CASE, ASSUMING AS WE DO THAT DINA OR ONE OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IS HOLDING THE BUDNIKS, THE MODUS OPERANDI IS NOTHING SHORT OF SADISTIC. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHY THE ARRESTING AUTHORITY SHOULD NOT SIMPLY ADMIT THAT IT IS INTERROGATING THE SUBJECTS UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, DETENTION, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA07358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760292-0528
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760713/aaaaaleg.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANTIAGO 7253, 76 STATE 184557, 76 SANTIAGO 7303
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISAPPEARANCE OF BUDNIK BORTHERS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINT, CI, (BUDNIK, JULIO), (BUDNIK, EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006